

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02936 261424Z  
ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 HA-05 /092 W  
-----125733 261429Z /53

O 261348Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8100  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2936

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SPON, LE  
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH BRITISH MAGAZINE  
"THE MIDDLE EAST"

REF: BEIRUT 2935 (NOTAL)

1. FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS ASKED CHARGE TO CALL ON HIM  
MORNING MAY 26 TO PROTEST REMARKS ALLEGEDLY MADE BY AMBASSADOR  
YOUNG TO BRITISH MAGAZINE "THE MIDDLE EAST" (SEE REFTEL).  
BOUTROS SAID THAT HE WAS VERY SURPRISED THAT A DEPLOMAT OF  
AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S LEVEL COULD SAY SUCH THINGS WHICH WERE  
FALSE, CONTRARY TO GOL POSITION AND OFFENSIVE TO THE LEBANESE  
GOVERNMENT. HE PROTESTED MOST STRINGLY AGAINST THESE REMARKS  
WHICH INDICATED AN UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARDS LEBANON BY THE  
UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT. HE ASKED THAT CHARGE CONVEY THIS  
PROTEST OFFICIALLY TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND COMMENTED THAT  
REMARKS OF THIS KIND NOT ONLY HARM RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND  
LEBANON, BUT ARE ALSO EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE IN VIEW OF VERY  
DELICATE SITUATION WHICH EXTISTS IN SOUTH LEBANON. REFERRING  
TO THE ALLEGED REMARKS ABOUT LEBANESE AND SYRIAN ATTITUDES  
TOWARDS ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL, HE SAID HE FOUND IT "UNBELIEVABLE"  
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THAT A RESPONSIBLE DIPLOMAT COULD SAY SUCH THINGS. SUCH  
BEHAVIOR, HE SAID, WOULD AFFECT THE TRUST THAT EXISTS NOT ONLY  
BETWEEN THE US AND LEBANESE GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES BUT  
ALSO THAT BETWEEN THE US AND REPRESENTATIVES OF OTHER COUNTRIES.  
HE ASKED WHAT USG INTENDED TO DO TO CORRECT THE FALSE STATE-  
MENTS THAT AMBASSADOR YOUNG HAD MADE.

2. CHARGE REPLIED THAT HE HAD SEEN THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS PURPORTING TO QUOTE AMBASSADOR YOUNG, BUT HE HAD NO BACK-GROUND ON THE CIRCUMSTANCES OR VALIDITY OF THE ALLEGED REMARKS. CHARGE PROMISED TO REPORT BOUTROS' PROTEST TO THE DEPARTMENT PROMPTLY AND SEEK AN EXPLANATION.

3. COMMENT: THE APPEARANCE OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ALLEGED REMARKS IN THE PUBLIC MEDIA HERE, WHICH IS DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN REFTEL, IS INDEED UNFORTUNATE TO SAY THE LEAST IN VIEW OF THE DELICATE SITUATION EXISTING IN SOUTH LEBANON. WE WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE BOTH TO MOLLIFY FOREIGN MINISTER BOUTROS AND TO HELP IN ANSWERING QUESTIONS FROM OTHERS. LANE

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, MAGAZINES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS  
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**Draft Date:** 26 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**TAGS:** SOPN, LE, US, (YOUNG, ANDREW), (BOUTROS, FOUAD)  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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